

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01 /015 W
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R 241523Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1001

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 8209

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SREF, SHUM, PINT CI

SUBJECT: VISA ELIGIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS AFFILIATED WITHN MIR;
RELATED GROUPS

REF: STATE 128060

1. SUMMARY: IN REFTTEL THE DEPARTMENT CONCURRED WITH THE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT THAT ASSOCIATION WITH THE MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR), EITHER AS A "DIMPATIZANTE" OR "MILITANTE," MADE A PERSON INELIGIBLE FOR A US VISA UNDER SECTION 212 (A) (28) (F2 (II) AND (III) OF THE INA. THE DEPARTMENT REFERRED TO OTHER CHILE PAROLE CASES INVOLVING ORGANIZATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MIR, AND ASKED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THEM TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY COME WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE SAME PROVISIONS OF THE INA. AFTER REVIEWING THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE, WE FOUND THAT THE MIR CREATED SEVERAL FRONT GROUPS AND SOUGHT TO ENSURE THAT LEADERS OF THESE FRONTS WERE ACTIVE MIR MEMBERS. WE COULD NOT ESTABLISH THAT ALL OFFICERS OF ALL FRONT GROUPS BELONGED TO THE MIR; WE DID ESTABLISH THAZ THE EMBASSY AND MANY CHILEANS DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN THE MIR AND THE FRONTS. THUS WE CONCLUDE THAT MERE MEMBERSHIP, AFFILIATION OR SYMPATHY TOWARD THE FRONTS SHOULD NOT MAKE AN INDIVIDUAL AUTOMATICALLY EXCLUDABLE. INTERVIEWING CONSULAR OFFICERS NEVERTHELESS SHOULD CAREFULLY EXAMINE THE ELIGIBILITY OF ALL CASES INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THESE GROUPS.
END SUMMARY.

2. RESEARCH IN EMBASSY FILES CONTAINS LITTLE INFORMATION DIRECTLY
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GERMANE TO THE PHILOSOPHY, MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS, AND MODUS

OPERANDI OF FOUR PRINCIPAL FRONT GROUPS ESTABLISHED BY THE MIR: "FEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES REVOLUCIONARIAS" (FTR); "MOVIMIENTO CAMPESENO REVOLUCIONARIO" (MCR); "MOVIMIENTO DE POBLADORES REVOLUCIONARIOS" (MPR), AND "FRENTE DE ESTUDIANTES REVOLUCIONARIOS" (FER). IN ADDITION, THE "MOVIMIENTO UNIVERSITARIO IZQUIERDISTA" (MUU) WAS A MIR FRONT CREATED IN THE CITY OF CONCEPCION.

3. OUR INFORMATION INDICATES THAT MIR LEADERS WANTED TO USE MEMBERS OF THESE VARIOUS FRONTS, WHO PROBABLY NUMBERED IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS, IN PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER MASS ACTIVITIES SUCH AS STRIKES AND LAND OR PROPERTY TAKEOVERS. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT MIR SUCCEEDED AT LEAST IN PART IN THIS OBJECTIVE AND INVOLVED THE FRONTS IN SUCH ACTIONS. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MIR AND THE FTR IN PARTICULARLY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN QUITE CLOSE.

4. NONETHELESS, THE EMBASSY CONSISTENTLY HAS DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE MIR ITSELF AND MEMBERSHIP IN FRONT GROUPS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN A-301 OF DECEMBER 20, 1972, THE EMBASSY EVALUATED A COMPREHENSIVE ARTICLE ON THE MIR WHICH APPEARED IN A MAJOR SANTIAGO WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE. THE EMBASSY QUESTIONED THE ACCURACY OF THE MAGAZINE'S CLAIM THAT THE MIR HAD 20,000 ACTIVE MEMBERS. THE EMBASSY SAID THEN THAT "THE MIR ... IS A SEMI-CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION; IT PREFERS AS A MATTER OF POLICY TO LIMIT ITS MEMBERSHIP TO A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF HIGHLY TRAINED AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED PERSONS, AND THE NUMBER OF PERMANENT CADRES IN THIS SENSE PROBABLY DOES NOT EXCEED 800. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF ALL THE MEMBERS OF MIR'S VARIOUS FRONT GROUPS ARE COUNTED AS 'ACTIVE MIRISTAS,' THE 20,000 FIGURE IS PROBABLY TOO LOW."

5. A YEAR AGO, ON AUGUST 18, 1975, AN EMBASSY OFFICER ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF MIR AND ITS FRONT GROUPS DURING A MEETING WITH AN INS OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE PAROLE PROGRAM. THE EMBASSY HAD EXPERIENCED MOST OF THE ALLENDE PERIOD AND KNEW WELL THE CONFUSED POLITICAL HISTORY OF THOSE YEARS. HE, TOO, DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN THE MIR AND THE FTR, MPR, MCR, FER AND MUI. IN HIS GUIDANCE HE CONSIDERED MIR MEMBERS INELIGIBLE, BUT NOT MERE MEMBERS OF FRONT GROUPS. HE OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT MOST OF THE OFFICERS OF THE FRONTS WERE ALSO MIRISTAS.

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6. CONVERSATIONS WITH VARIOUS SOURCES RECENTLY HAVE TENDED TO CONFIRM A PERCEIVED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PERSONS WHO JOINED OR SYMPATHIZED WITH THE FRONTS AND ACTUAL MIRISTAS. EVEN PEOPLE MOST ANTAGONISTIC TOWARD THE MIR SAID THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE FRONTS WERE ESSENTIALLY INNOCENT BYSTANDERS SWEEPED UP IN TRANSITORY CURRENTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, MANY OTHERS WERE INDEED WILLING ADVOCATES OF MIR PHILOSOPHY AND MAY BE CONSIDERED AT

LEAST MIR "SIMPATIZANTES."

7. IN CONCLUSION, WE DON NOT FIND THAT MERE MEMBERSHIP IN THE FRONTS IS GROUNDS FOR INELIGIBILITY UNDER SECTION 212 (A) (28) (F) OF THE ACT. MEMBERS OF THESE FRONTS HOWEVER, SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AS TO THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MIR ITSELF. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE FTR, MPR, MCR, FER AND MUI REMAIN ON THE LIST OF SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS, 9 FAM, APP. "A," EXHIBIT I, UNDER CLASSIFICATION "4," NON-CONNUNIST ORGANIZATIONS. THE ENTRIES SHOULD REFER TO A FOOTNOTE TO READ AS FOLLOWS(" THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS ARE CONSIDERED FRONTS OF THE MOVIMIENTO IZQUIERDO REVOLUCIONARIO (MIR). WHILE MEMBERSHIP ALONE IN ANY OF THESE FRONTS IS NOT CONSIDERED GROUNDS FOR INELIGIBILITY, MEMBERS OR FORMER MEMBERS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY QUESTIONED AS TO THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MIR ITSELF." (LIST FRONTS UNDER FOOTNOTE).

8. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES ALSO RELATE: STATE 145024 REGARDING MEMBERSHIP IN MUI; STATE 202555 REGARDING MEMBERSHIP IN FTR. POPPER

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